

FOOD DONATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION

PROGRESS UPDATE, FALL 2020



THE FOOD DONATION ACTION PLAN FOR THE SAN DIEGO REGION

The food system includes all processes and infrastructure in place to feed a population. Food donation plays an important role in a food system in building healthy communities, supporting the economy, and enhancing the environment. Promoting and increasing food donation is one of the priorities of the *Live Well San Diego* Food System Initiative, which supports the *Live Well San Diego* vision of a region that is building better health, living safely, and thriving. To enhance region wide food donation efforts, the Food Donation Action Plan was created in collaboration with regional stakeholders to support and improve food donation and help address food insecurity, while also reducing wasted food.

ABOUT PROGRESS UPDATE, FALL 2020

Progress Update, Fall 2020 provides statistics and information on efforts taken in support of the Food Donation Action Plan, as well as steps to move forward to further support the regional food system. Since the Plan was developed, the County Board of Supervisors approved waiving the fees associated with registering or obtaining a health permit for Charitable Feeding Organizations, paving the way for 85 Charitable Feeding Organizations to increase food security and support food donation. Across food donation organizations, 75 million pounds of food was distributed, 62 million meals were served, and 27 million pounds of edible, surplus food was recovered which otherwise would have gone to waste this year. The infographic on the following page includes statistics of efforts from calendar year 2019 up to August 2020.

WHY NOW

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted gaps in our regional food system on a social, economic, and environmental level. Progress Update, Fall 2020 strives to highlight the efforts taken thus far as well as indicates future concerted efforts to strengthen the resiliency of our regional food system by improving food security, enhancing food donation, and reducing wasted food.



PROGRESS UPDATE



IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

14.4% of the population
in the San Diego region face food insecurity
(2019)

75 million pounds of food
distributed to those in need by the food banks
and partners in the San Diego region (2020)

46% increase in food delivered
from 2018

521,000 people
receive food monthly from the food banks and
pantries (2020)

62 million meals
served to those in need (2020)

26% increase in meals served
from 2017



352,000 people
receive CalFresh benefits (2020)

ADAPTING TO COVID-19

March 2020 - August 2020

770,000 people
receiving food monthly from food
banks in the San Diego region

3,060 food boxes delivered
to seniors and individuals with
disabilities by the County, food
banks, and partners

35 Super Pantries
for high-volume food distribution
to most vulnerable communities
across the San Diego region

14,420 Food Take-out and Delivery guides
sent by the County to food facilities and third party
delivery service companies to protect food safety

2,370 participants
received meals with the Great Plates
program through the County

The Food Donation Action Plan was developed to help address food insecurity, improve food donation, and reduce wasted food in the region.



ENHANCE FOOD DONATION

85 Charitable Feeding Organizations
had health permit fee waived by the County (2020)

44 pantries in Nutrition Pantry Program
of Leah's Pantry to provide nourishing,
client-centered food distributions (2020)



18 pantries added
since January 2020

\$100,000 in freezers/coolers
from food banks to nonprofit partners for food storage
and distribution (2019)

150 partner agencies
of the food banks given freezer blankets
for food storage and distribution (2019)

4 refrigerated trucks
given to partner agencies by the
food banks (2019)



**27 million
pounds
of food recovered
in the San Diego
region (2019)**



REDUCE WASTED FOOD

530,000 tons
of food is wasted each year in the San Diego region
(2018)

42% reduction of wasted food
in 15 commercial kitchens through *Smart Kitchens San
Diego* waste tracking technology and coaching (2020)

16,100 Too Good To Waste guides
sent by the County to food facilities to promote food
donation and reduce wasted food (2019)



1,040,000 people
reached with *Save the Food, San Diego!* (2020)

39% of waste disposal
in the unincorporated county is organic
material (food scraps and yard waste) (2019)



The County's Climate Action Plan seeks to
increase the waste diversion rate to **80%
by 2030**. Currently, 60% of solid waste in
the unincorporated county is diverted
from landfills through waste reduction,
recycling, and composting programs.

PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

What is measured: From the number of meals served to food insecure individuals to food safety training and outreach, the Food Donation Action Plan tracks 21 measures that were developed to assess progress on improving food donation efforts, reducing food insecurity, and reducing wasted food. Since the Plan's implementation, 16 of the measures have made quantifiable progress with 9 being measured as completed. The remaining 5 measures require the development of programs or plans to start tracking progress.

How is it measured: The County measures progress toward our goals by capturing the number of pounds of food or meals provided to food insecure individuals, the number of fee waivers for Charitable Feeding Organizations, the amount of funding or materials provided to pantries for food storage or safety, the number of pounds of edible food rescued from the landfill, the amount of resources provided on reducing wasted food or improving food safety, and much more. Review detailed information about the measures by reviewing the full Plan [here](#).

How we adapt: COVID-19 has presented new challenges and highlighted areas of improvement within our regional food system and this Plan. The County and our stakeholders quickly adapted to the region's immediate needs by increasing services and implementing new programs. Since March 2020, the region has seen a 200% increase in applications for food assistance and has responded by increasing the number of individuals served by 48%, quadrupling meals served in the region's senior meal programs, and opening 35 Super Pantries for high-volume food distribution in the most food insecure areas.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

Continued monitoring and evaluation will be conducted with lead organizations measuring ongoing and pending measures. In addition, the County and our regional food system stakeholders will update the Food Donation Action Plan to add new measures that focus on building a more resilient and nimble food system that is able to quickly respond and adapt to the needs of our population.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9
COMPLETED 43%

7
ONGOING 33%

5
PENDING 24%



Check out the
Food System Initiative [website](#)



PARTNERS

The efforts of the Food Donation Action Plan, as well as the creation of Progress Update, Fall 2020 was done through the continued collaboration and support of food system and food donation organizations in the region.

Leading Organizations

Feeding San Diego

Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank

Leah's Pantry

San Diego Food System Alliance

County of San Diego

- Department of Environmental Health
- Department of Public Works
- Health & Human Services Agency, Aging & Independent Services
- Health & Human Services Agency, Eligibility Operations Office
- Health & Human Services Agency, Public Health Services
- Land Use & Environment Group

Network of Organizations

See page 21 of the [Food Donation Action Plan](#) for full acknowledgment of stakeholders, organizations, and pantries involved in the survey and development of the Plan.

City of Carlsbad

City of Chula Vista

City of Oceanside

City of San Diego

Community Health Improvement Partners

Community Resource Center

County of San Diego Department of Agriculture,
Weights & Measures

County of San Diego Sheriff's Department
EDCO

Escondido Union School District

Food and Beverage Association

Grossmont Union High School District

Heaven's Windows

Interfaith Community Services

Jewish Family Service

Kitchens for Good

Lemon Grove School District

My Momma's Place

ProduceGood

Public Health Alliance of Southern California

Republic Services

San Diego County Farm Bureau

San Diego County Office of Education

San Diego Hunger Coalition

San Diego Roots Sustainable Project/ Victory Gardens San
Diego

San Diego State University – Dining Services

San Diego Unified School District

San Diego Zoo

San Dieguito Union High School District

Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

Stehly Farms Organics

The Foundry Community Church

Transportation Alliance Group

University of California San Diego (UCSD) – Center for
Community Health

University of San Diego (USD) – Caster Family Center for
Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research

USA Cab

Vista Unified School District

Waste Management

Yellow Cab